

Fall 2016

School of Public Affairs Newsletter, Vol. 5, Iss. 3

Kristy Modrow
kkmodrow@stcloudstate.edu

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Recommended Citation

Modrow, Kristy, "School of Public Affairs Newsletter, Vol. 5, Iss. 3" (2016). *School of Public Affairs Newsletter*. 14.
https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/sopa_newsletter/14

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From military service to degree completion: an international student's journey



Byunggi Choi '16 serving in Korean Special Forces

Byunggi Choi '16 served in the Korean Special Forces for more than six years. One of his most valuable experiences was serving in a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Lebanon. While working with military personnel from around the world, Choi realized the importance of global citizenship and the need for strong English skills in order to succeed. He began to study English intensely.

In 2013, Choi resigned from the military and enrolled at St. Cloud State University to pursue a master's degree in public safety

executive leadership (PSEL). Nalee Kim '16, Choi's wife, also enrolled at St. Cloud State to pursue a master's in special education. Choi struggled with adjusting to the United States and learned that academics were rigorous. Often he would go to the library early in the morning and leave around midnight. He worked on campus in the Department of Public Safety where he was able to interact with native English speakers, which helped him improve his English skills quickly. Choi and Kim also had a daughter this spring.



Byunggi Choi '16 along with his wife Nalee Kim '16 and daughter Ina Choi

Choi overcame barriers living, studying and being a parent in the United States and along with his wife successfully completed their degrees this spring. He is thankful to his professors who, "kindly instructed me to finish my academic work successfully."

In July, Choi was hired at the Incheon Metropolitan City Fire Department in South Korea. Incheon is Korea's third most populous city. In his career, Choi will utilize knowledge learned in the PSEL program such as advanced leadership, budgeting, planning and emergency management.

Choi's future plans include completing a doctoral degree in the United States and ultimately be an expert in South Korean emergency management. He wants to dedicate himself to the safety of others and help create a better world for future generations. Choi states, "I am thankful for everything in my life and I hope that I will be a person who could keep developing myself in my lifetime." His advice to students is, "You can do everything if you don't give up."

Dean's message



King Banaian, dean, School of Public Affairs

In the School of Public Affairs, every presidential election cycle brings us extra attention as the public considers who it will choose to be its leaders. This cycle is no different. Our SCSU Survey will soon ramp up its work for an opinion poll that will take the public's temperature on the candidates before us. We expect through the American Democracy Project and other efforts a rise in attention to our students' role as citizens, from informing them to giving them the opportunity to register and vote in November. You can see that theme throughout this newsletter in the activities we will have this fall.

But other recent events press upon us and call us to respond. From the United Kingdom we got "Brexit," the decision of Britain to leave the European Union. Some faculty and I were called upon by our local media to analyze the surprising result. It so happened that some of our faculty had been at Alnwick Castle in May, and students were led by Professor Gareth John to Wales later that month. I was pleased to visit with officials from the Garda Siochana, Ireland's national police, while they were at the annual North Central Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar (LEEDS) that is held here that same month. We look forward to their return next year, and I might get to ask them about the Irish view of Brexit.

And then there are the several police-involved shootings in this country and the tragedy in Dallas. Issues of race and justice permeate our classes. We wrote in this newsletter last summer about a panel put on discussing Ferguson and other incidents of 2015, focused on comments about criminal justice by FBI Director James Comey. He noted then, and I agree, that training alone does not solve these issues; there is much more education that has to happen. We are committed to offering that broader education.

As well, we have more than 400 students studying in the Department of Criminal Justice Studies, and many of our alumni work in law enforcement. A privilege I get as a dean is faculty and alumni who share with me how the bonds between those faculty and our alumni in law enforcement continues with calls, notes and emails. My thoughts go to the difficulties they face daily.

I write this in the middle of July, but my calendar is already filling for the start of the school year, which is when this newsletter will find you. So I welcome you back to St. Cloud State, either as student, faculty or alum, or interested friend and neighbor. I hope to see you on campus soon.

Students earn honors at Arrowhead Model U.N.

Four St. Cloud State students brought home honorable mention honors from the 40th Arrowhead Model United Nations simulation at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse this April.

A total of 16 St. Cloud State students, ranging from freshmen to seniors, participated in Model U.N. representing Angola, Iraq, Mongolia, Ukraine and Vietnam. International Relations Club President Adam Holte headed the delegation. It was his third time participating in Model U.N.

In Model U.N. students represent individual countries while meeting in committees and seeking to pass resolutions and dealing with simulated crises.

Earning honorable mention at the event were:

- Adam Holte, representing Iraq, served on the social, humanitarian and cultural committee
- Stephane Beriberi, representing Angola, served on the security council
- Mergen Narangerel, representing Mongolia, served on the economic and finance committee
- Tsogtbilguundari Khishigbati, representing Mongolia, served on the human rights council

Support for Model U.N. is provided by the School of Public Affairs, the Department of Political Science and Student Government.



Arrowhead Model U.N. honorees (pictured left to right): Adam Holte, Stephane Beriberi, Mergen Narangerel and Tsogtbilguundari Khishigbati

Public Affairs sponsors fall events

Education Abroad Fair

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sept. 14 Atwood Memorial Center, Main Lounge
Explore the world! Learn about St. Cloud State study abroad opportunities.

The Campus Conundrum: Respecting the Speech We Hate

3-4:15 p.m. Sept. 14 Atwood Memorial Center, Theatre
Public universities have a dual responsibility: to protect students and to protect free speech. Striking the proper balance between the two is not easy, as evidenced by the recent well-publicized conflicts at the University of Missouri, Yale and DePaul, among others. What should we be doing at St. Cloud State? How are we doing at St. Cloud State? This event promises to be a lively discussion of the status of free speech on our campus and how the university tries to meet the needs of its students while maintaining respect for the first amendment rights of all.

Quarterly Business Report Review and Regional Outlook

7:30-9 a.m. Sept. 15 Resource Training and Solutions, 137 23rd St S, Sartell

Presenter King Banaian, dean, St. Cloud State School of Public Affairs and co-author of the St. Cloud Area Quarterly Business Report, will discuss economic and business conditions in the St. Cloud region.

Understanding the Second Amendment: Context, Structure, Meaning and Implications for Liberty

10-11 a.m. Sept. 16 Atwood Memorial Center, Theatre
An introduction to the 2nd Amendment of the United States Constitution; its context, lexicon, grammar and meaning. Examining the amendment as an expression of natural law, individual sovereignty and first principles. Reviewing the 2nd Amendment's unique role in social compact and free government. Concluding with an overview of contemporary interpretations of the 2nd Amendment by the United States Supreme Court. The discussion will neither address nor entertain debates over gun control laws or policy, political aspects of gun rights/ownership or derivative topics such as liability of gun manufacturers/sellers for gun-related violence.

Constitution Day Trivia

11 a.m.-1 p.m. Sept. 16 Atwood Memorial Center, Mall
Come and test your knowledge of the U.S. Constitution!

Travel & Tourism Speaker, TBA

3-4 p.m. Sept. 19 Atwood Memorial Center, Alumni Room

Career Day

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sept. 27 Atwood Memorial Center, Ballroom
This large on campus job and internship fair brings a variety of employers to campus to promote their opportunities and recruit for internships and full time positions.

Tourism Week

John Edman, director, Explore MN - 3-4 p.m. Oct. 3 Atwood Memorial Center, Alumni Room

MN Hospitality Industry - 2-3 p.m. Oct. 4 Atwood Memorial Center, Alumni Room

MN Shopping Tourism & Event Industry - Noon to 1 p.m. Oct. 5 Atwood Memorial Center, Alumni Room

Tourism Resume Workshop - Noon-1 p.m. Oct. 6 Centennial Hall 215

Gear Up Class of 2020

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Oct. 6 Atwood Memorial Center, Ballroom
Students from the class of 2020 will learn about spring registration, campus resources, meet advisors/professors, explore majors/careers and have the opportunity to question recent alumni about their academic/professional journey.

Ethics 360 Focus Days

Designed to engage students, faculty and the university community in a robust dialogue about living life with integrity—wherever we are on campus and in the workplace. Students can earn a certificate of completion for their participation. For updated info visit:

ethics360stcloud.wordpress.com/

White Collar Crime - 4-5:30 p.m. Oct. 26 Atwood Memorial Center, Cascade

Student Ethics Case Competition - 4-6 p.m. Oct. 27 Atwood Memorial Center, Theatre

Government & Non-Profit Career Fair

10 a.m.-3 p.m. Oct. 28 University of Minnesota, Coffman Union
Free job fair for St. Cloud State students or alumni interested in internships and jobs in government agencies. More information and online registration: togpartners.com/govnonprofitfair/

Dining Etiquette & Business Networking Program Nov. 3

Networking - 10-11:30 a.m. Atwood Memorial Center, Glacier Room
Dining Etiquette - Noon-2 p.m. Atwood Memorial Center, Cascade Room

Cost: \$15 Register online: scsucareers.com

Meet employers and learn how to conduct yourself at a business meal.

A Meal to Change the World: Oxfam Hunger Banquet

5:30-7 p.m. Nov. 16 Atwood Memorial Center, Cascade room
This unique meal and several hands on activities will give students and community members an opportunity to learn more about issues of global and local hunger, poverty and homelessness. This event attempts to place students and community members inside the lens of different social classes.

Quarterly Business Report Review and Regional Outlook

Resource Training & Solutions - 7:30-9 a.m. Dec. 15, 137 23rd St S, Sartell

Presenter King Banaian, dean, St. Cloud State School of Public Affairs and co-author of the St. Cloud Area Quarterly Business Report, will discuss economic and business conditions in the St. Cloud region.



Professor Clifford exploring Vienna, Austria



Alnwick Castle in Alnwick, England in May

Public Affairs continues international focus

This summer the School of Public Affairs awarded grants to faculty and staff to further engage students globally whether it be through education abroad opportunities for St. Cloud State students, attracting international students to St. Cloud State or utilizing technology to globally engage students.

Austria - In May, Linda Butenhoff, professor of political science and Mary Clifford, professor of criminal justice studies took an exploratory trip to Vienna, Austria. They investigated the possibility of expanding the Leadership in International Public Affairs program, which was developed by Butenhoff in 2008 to allow students to meet with United Nations (U.N.) experts and diplomats at the U.N. headquarters in New York. A new option would be an educational abroad program based in Vienna, Austria. Vienna is home to the U.N. International Center (UNIC) and several U.N. agencies including the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the U.N. Office of Outer Space. Butenhoff and Clifford toured the UNIC and met with U.N. staff to discuss programming for St. Cloud State students. In addition to the U.N., they also met with staff from the United States Mission to the U.N. as well as with staff from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Efforts to support and create collaborations between existing leadership education throughout the School of Public Affairs were another trip objective. Butenhoff and Clifford traveled to the Austrian Research Centre known as the “Peace Castle.” The Peace Castle conducts on site and online training programs in peace education, conflict resolution and security studies.

Cuba - In early June, Edward Greaves, professor of political science, spent twelve days in Havana with the objective of looking into the feasibility of setting up a short-term study abroad program for students to experience Cuba. He also explored the possibility of building connections between St. Cloud State and the Universidad de la Habana for professor exchanges and collaboration in research.

Greaves met with Helene Jouen, a representative from Academic Programs International (API) based in Cuba. API is an organization that works with U.S. universities to set up study abroad programs in Cuba (and other countries), and has a fairly well developed infrastructure to provide accommodations for foreign students studying in Havana. API has well-developed connections to the Universidad de La Habana, and to the Centro Martiano, a research

institute in Havana that is able to provide assistance with the academic aspects of study abroad in Cuba.

“What became clear during my visit is that as Cuba’s relationship to the United States evolves and expands in the coming years, there will be significant potential for collaboration between St. Cloud State and Universidad de Habana in a number of different areas,” said Greaves.

Cyprus - Aref Hassan, professor of political science visited the University of Nicosia in Cyprus to network with their faculty and staff to discuss further partnerships with St. Cloud State. Hassan stated, “My visit and discussions with them were very enlightening, positive and promising. The university’s curriculum is practically all in English making it the largest English teaching institution in southern Europe and the Middle East Mediterranean region.”

The University of Nicosia is accredited with modern facilities that meet international standards. Opportunities exist for St. Cloud State faculty and student exchanges as well as study abroad programs of various lengths. The University of Nicosia is eager to make St. Cloud State one of their leading partners in the United States. St. Cloud State students will stay at the University of Nicosia and travel to Jordan next summer for a two-week short-term education abroad program designed to study the ethnic conflict by visiting the divided capital Nicosia and meeting with international relations and conflict resolution experts in the country.

England – In May Kristy Modrow, experiential learning and outreach director, of the School of Public Affairs attended an on-site teaching workshop at the Alnwick Castle in Alnwick, England. The workshop exposed participants to the history of St. Cloud State’s Alnwick program, future plans for programming, as well as teaching and experiential learning opportunities.

Modrow along with colleagues Rich MacDonald, professor of economics and Gretchen Huwe, director of the Herberger Business School Advising Center designed an Alnwick semester-long education abroad proposal that encompasses St. Cloud State’s geography and planning program, economics and finance departments. Students attending the future educational abroad program would not only study in England but also engage in experiential learning opportunities while utilizing public affairs skills to complete community outreach work such as measuring economic impact of tourism in Alnwick and predicting regional economic performance.

SCSU Survey: Majority of Minnesotans see positives in immigration

The majority of Minnesotans see immigration as having a positive effect on the United States, according to findings by the Fall 2015 SCSU Statewide Survey. Each fall the SCSU Survey conducts a survey of adult Minnesotans about their perspectives on relevant political and social issues. The survey previously released political, environmental and ADA law reports based on the survey results. Among other issues, this year's survey asked respondents about immigration policy and their attitudes about specific groups of immigrants.

More than 60 percent of Minnesotans believe that immigrants have a positive or very positive effect on the United States. About 25 percent of respondents indicated they believe immigrants have a negative or very negative effect on the state. Acceptance levels differed for different ethnic groups. Fifty-five percent of Minnesotans support the state continuing to welcome Somali immigrants, and 80 percent support the state continuing to welcome Mexican immigrants. "We attribute this to the fact that Somali immigration is a more recent phenomenon in Minnesota than Mexican immigration," according to Sandrine Zerbib and Ann Finan, in the Immigration Report. "However, these results are also consistent with an interpretation that race and religion are also important factors in how immigrants are received." Attitudes also differed based on where Minnesotans live, with Twin Cities respondents demonstrating higher levels of acceptance of immigrants than respondents living in greater Minnesota. About 70 percent of metro residents indicated they believed immigrants have a positive effect on the United States, while 56 percent of out-state residents said the same.

Respondents were also more likely to see immigration in a positive light if their family had ties to immigration. Eighty-four percent of immigrants or the children of immigrants indicated they believed immigration's effects were positive versus 69 percent of people born in the United States to non-immigrant parents. Despite the support for immigration, 85 percent of respondents indicated support for some form of strengthened immigration control.

The results of the 2015 survey are similar to the attitudes found in the 2014 survey, when 61 percent of respondents indicated they believed immigrants had a positive effect on the nation. Responses for the survey were gathered from 623 randomly-selected landline and cellphone users Oct. 12-22 at the St. Cloud State Survey Lab.

2017 Winter Institute February 23-24

The Winter Institute is an annual celebration of economic education and is a signature event for the Department of Economics, Center for Economic Education and the School of Public Affairs at St. Cloud State. The 2017 Winter Institute will mark the 55th year of this seminal event. The Institute is a two-day conference consisting of several key pieces: teacher workshops, the economic outlook and the speakers program. Each year the Winter Institute features renowned economists and regional business leaders.

The 2017 Winter Institute will take place on Feb. 23-24. We are pleased to announce this year's theme will be "Ideas and Innovation." Stay tuned for more information regarding the line-up of speakers for 2017. Visit stcloudstate.edu/winterinstitute for more information.

Sponsorships help make the Winter Institute sustainable for years to come. If you, your department, program or school is interested in sponsoring the Winter Institute, please contact Lynn MacDonald at lcmacdonald@stcloudstate.edu or Cindy Fitzthum at cjfitzthum@stcloudstate.edu for more details.

Wirth honored at half-time

Kyli Van Klei '16, selected Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice Stewart Wirth to be honored during halftime at one of her St. Cloud State basketball games. Coaches requested athletes to honor a professor who had positively impacted their academic career. Van Klei stated, "Professor Wirth has had an outstanding impact on my personal development through my years at St. Cloud State and always took the extra step to help me out." Van Klei graduated this spring and is pursuing a career as a criminal analyst.



Professor Wirth (third from right) along with other faculty honored at basketball half-time



Kyli Van Klei '16 and Professor Wirth (both in middle) at Huskies basketball game

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Support the School of Public Affairs by making a gift. For more information visit: stcloudstate.edu/foundation/waystogive/

American Democracy Project opportunities

The American Democracy Project (ADP) has a variety of opportunities for students, staff and faculty members to engage in during the 2016-17 academic year:

- Voter Registration: Are you interested in helping individuals register to vote on campus? We need help staffing our booth in Atwood this fall and will provide training.
- Constitution Day Trivia and Speaker: Mark your calendars for Sept. 16. We will have a full day of trivia, speakers and fun.
- Candidate Conversations: Are you interested in becoming engaged with local candidates? ADP is partnering with the League of Women Voters to bring candidates to campus. Please consider volunteering to help plan and assist the day of.

If you would like to be involved with ADP, please contact Cindy Fitzthum at cjfitzthum@stcloudstate.edu or Marla Kanengieter at mkanengieter@stcloudstate.edu for more information.



Research Institute News

The School of Public Affairs Research Institute (SOPARI) continues to work on a variety of applied research projects and has grant applications and prospective contracts under review. Some of our current work includes:

- The St. Cloud Area Quarterly Business Report (in collaboration with the Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation and Times Media)
- The QBR Review Program (in collaboration with Great River Federal Credit Union)
- Regional Minnesota Economic and Business Conditions Reports (in collaboration with the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State)
- City of Waite Park Land Use Study (in collaboration with the City of Waite Park)
- Regional Dashboard Project (in collaboration with St. John's University/ College of St. Benedict and the Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation)
- Service, Support & Justice: A Strategy to Enhance Law Enforcement Response to Victims Technical Assistance initiative (in collaboration with the International Association of Chiefs of Police)

Criminal Justice professors Mary Clifford and Stewart Wirth have received a three-year, \$100,000 grant to provide research support for the Casper, Wyoming Police Department as part of the International Association of Chiefs of Police Service, Support & Justice: A Strategy to Enhance Law Enforcement Response to Victims Technical Assistance initiative. As a sub-grantee, professors Clifford and Wirth will conduct a comprehensive needs assessment process, an implementation process evaluation, facilitate a data collection effort and will provide other research support designed to improve law enforcement's response to victims of crime.

SOPARI has recently collaborated with colleagues in St. Cloud State's mathematics and statistics, and computer science and information technology departments on a National Institute of Standards and Technology grant proposal to develop a Greater St. Cloud Cybersecurity Consortium designed to stimulate cybersecurity education and workforce development in Central Minnesota. This grant application aims to create alliances with multiple stakeholders in the St. Cloud area to:

- Work with K-12 and college and university educators to design cybersecurity educational modules to meet workforce demands
- Work with area firms and economic development organizations to create mentorship and internship opportunities in cybersecurity careers
- Conduct multi-disciplinary research in cybersecurity

Project collaborators include multiple St. Cloud State departments, St. Cloud Technical and Community College, St. Cloud, ROCORI and Holdingford school districts, seven local firms (Microbiologics, CentraCare Health, Netgain, GeoComm, Capital One 360, Park Industries and Marco), the Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation, and the regional office of the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

SOPARI is currently looking for researchers who are interested in working on a project(s) designed to encourage Somali entrepreneurship (or, more generally, immigrant entrepreneurship) in the St. Cloud area. If you are interested in knowing more about this or any other SOPARI activity, please contact Rich MacDonald, interim director, School of Public Affairs Research Institute at ramacdonald@stcloudstate.edu.

Faculty Highlights

Aref Hassan (political science) presented a paper on the future of nation states in the Middle East at a conference held at the University of Nicosia in Cyprus. He also met with staff from the University of Nicosia to discuss prospects of a study abroad experience and to build institutional relationships between St. Cloud State and the University of Nicosia.

Tracy Ore (sociology) presented Food Insecurity: Local & Global Considerations at the Nobel Peace Prize Forum sponsored by the School of Public Affairs on June 6. The session focused on key issues related to local and global food insecurity. Participants discussed barriers and opportunities for working toward peaceful and sustainable solutions.

Chuks Ugochukwu (geography and planning) participated in the 2nd International Research Conference on Promoting Humanities Research for Development in Africa, June 15-17 at College of Humanities, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana. He presented a paper titled, "The slave trade route: A regional and local development catalyst."



University of Nicosia, Cyprus

Student Highlight

Oluwatobi Oluwagbemi (political science and women's studies) received a scholarship to attend the American Association of University Women National Conference for College Women Student Leaders Conference at the University of Maryland, College Park. Each year, 1,000 college women from the U.S. and from around the world attend to learn, collaborate and be inspired to prepared to be the next generation of leaders. Oluwagbemi is passionate about women's issues and Michelle Obama is her role model.

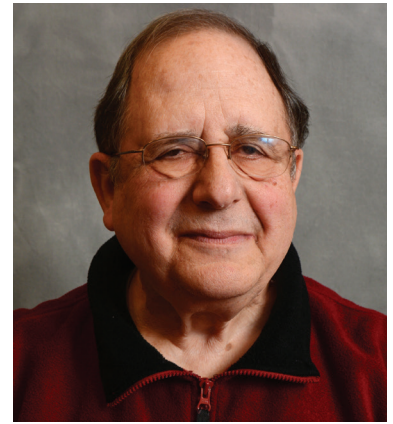
We remember

It is with deep and profound sadness that we remember our colleague and friend, Steve Frank who passed away after complications of surgery on June 22. Our grief is shared by the multitude of people whose lives Steve touched.

Steve will be remembered for his many professional accomplishments. However, for those that knew him best it was clear that his love and devotion for his wife Barb and son Thomas were most important to him. Every week Steve would give fresh flowers to Barb.

Steve will also be remembered for his devotion to St. Cloud State, his students, the profession and the community. Steve began his career as Ford Fellow high school teacher before pursuing a career in higher education, and always prided himself on being an energetic and innovative teacher. He served St. Cloud State for 38 years before his retirement at the end of this academic year.

Among Steve's many achievements was the founding of the SCSU Survey in 1980. He built it from a small class project for his undergrad research methods class into a nationally-recognized survey operation that Nate Silver rated as the third most-accurate poll of its size in 2012. In recognition of his body of work, in 2013 Steve was awarded the inaugural Distinguished Political Scientist Award by the Minnesota Political Science Association. Jim Cottrill, assistant professor of political science and co-director of the survey, said "Steve set the bar very high for us, and I hope that we can continue his mission of educating students through hands-on involvement in survey research with the same energy, enthusiasm and dedication that he brought to his work every day."



In memory of Professor Stephen Frank.

"Steve's contributions to our university will be felt for decades," said School of Public Affairs Dean King Banaian. "His engagement of our students through the formation of the SCSU Survey in 1980 is remembered by alumni throughout this state. He was a long-time pre-law advisor as well. Many students from both parts of Steve's service came to his retirement party in April to tell him the impact he had on their lives and careers."

Steve's commitment to the success of his students and to the university extended into all areas of his work. Steve served as chair of the St. Cloud State's Department of Political Science, president of the St. Cloud State Faculty Association and president of the Minnesota Political Science Association. He also served as an instructor in the University of Minnesota-Duluth master's program in advocacy and political leadership. In addition, he was also active in the larger community and served as a council person for the city of St. Joseph from 2008-15.

Those who have been fortunate to work closely with Steve mourn the loss of a colleague, mentor and dear friend. Steve always took an interest in what was going on in each of our lives, professional and personal. We will miss his guidance, companionship, and especially, his emails.



St. Cloud State earns Forbes top-college nod

A leading national business magazine has again acknowledged St. Cloud State as a great American university. Forbes ranks St. Cloud State 563rd in its annual analysis of “America’s Top Colleges.”

The United States has 3,026 four-year colleges, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, an agency of the U.S. Department of Education.

That means St. Cloud State is . . .

- Among the **elite 19 percent** of the nation’s colleges and universities, based on post-graduate success, student debt, student satisfaction, graduation rate and academic success
- Among the **top 1 percent most affordable** of “America’s Top Colleges”

St. Cloud State is one of just five Minnesota public schools ranked in 2016: University of Minnesota (119th), University of Minnesota-Morris (415th), University of Minnesota-Duluth (542nd), St. Cloud State

(563rd) and Minnesota State University Mankato (607th). Of note, 12 Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference schools were not ranked, including four sister Minnesota State schools.

Other rankings of note are National Collegiate Hockey Conference rivals Colorado College (57th), University of Denver (139th), Miami University (180th), University of North Dakota (382nd), University of Nebraska, Omaha (529th) and Western Michigan University (581st).

St. Cloud State’s recent Forbes rankings include 504th in 2013, 566th in 2014 and 562nd in 2015.

St. Cloud State’s higher ranking in 2013 is attributed to that year’s methodology, which factored in competitive awards. St. Cloud State earned five nationally competitive awards in 2012 and 2013, including the Simon Award, Heiskell Award, HEED Award, Hobey Baker Award and Innovative Program of the Year Award. Get award

details at the Distinctions website.

“What sets our calculation of the best 660 United States colleges and universities apart is our firm belief in return on investment. We look at factors that directly concern students and their families: Are current undergrads satisfied? Is it likely I’ll graduate on time or incur a ton of student debt? Will I get a good job and be a leader in my chosen profession?” said Forbes staff member Caroline Howard, who helped edit “America’s Top Colleges.”

An American business website and bi-weekly, Forbes has published since 1917. This is the ninth year Forbes has ranked colleges and universities. The “America’s Top Colleges” methodology was developed in cooperation with Washington D.C.-based Center for College Affordability and Productivity. Data sources include the Department of Education, Payscale, and the America’s Leaders list, Forbes’ curated tally of alumni success.



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Whitney House 101
720 4th Ave S.
St. Cloud, MN 56301

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MINNESOTA STATE